

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Hō'ola Nōio

A Message from the OCS Acting Executive Director *to our service providers:*

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) – Office of Community Services (OCS) has suffered a significant decline in Purchase of Services (POS) contract funds since its high point in Fiscal Year (FY) 1995 of over \$6.5 million. FY 2000 awarded DLIR-OCS \$4.6 million, with FY05 funding at \$4.4 million, to our current FY10 POS program budget of \$2,206,269.

OCS suffered a restriction in FY09 in the amount of \$839,932. As of May 6, 2010, DLIR-OCS' staff will already be reduced from 16 to 7 members. Further budget cuts to DLIR-OCS will lead to the reduction or elimination of programs.

DLIR-OCS has maintained POS programs through a creative leveraging of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) or Title XX Federal funds as well as by savings realized by the implementation of performance-based contracts (PBCs). It remains unclear at this time whether or not these funds will be available in FY11 for access by DLIR-OCS. If TANF and Title XX funds are not available in FY 11, then there will be no monies will cover the FY 09 reduction of \$839,932.

In addition, the FY 2011 General Fund Program appropriations H.B. No. 2200 H.D. 1 S.D. 2 C.D. 1 adjustment to the DLIR-OCS budget reduced \$700,000 from LBR 903, OCS. However, this further reduction of (\$700,000) represents slightly less than half of the total pending budget cuts which threatens OCS' continuing its POS programs. Thus the FY11 POS program budget will then be \$1,828,182. POS contracted amounts for FY11 is \$3,108,505. Unfortunately, if this worst-case scenario becomes reality, there may not be

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First Pacific Region Weatherization Conference Held April 6-9, 2010



Eileen Yoshinaka (left) and Carol Gates (right) present, Keith Nakano with USDOE Certificate of Appreciation

The first Annual Pacific Region Weatherization Conference (PRWC), held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, brought together warm weather weatherization providers from across the Pacific to disseminate and exchange information and to promote good working partnerships. Participants came from American Samoa, Guam, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as each of our Hawaiian neighbor islands.

The conference was a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Energy and OCS. Our providers and
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Updated Grants Information

The OCS website will be undergoing new changes with a focus on delivering new information on funding sources and grants as they become available.

Please visit:

www.hawaii.gov/labor/ocs/funding
to view new information as well as links to other popular sources of funding.

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enough monies to completely fund all of DLIR-OCS' employment core programs.

In the past month, OCS has kept its service providers aware of pending shortfalls in the budget. At this time, OCS would like to thank our service providers for notifying key legislators of the negative impact budget cuts would have on programs. OCS and the service providers wanted the legislators to have this information so that they could make an informed decision. Unfortunately, the budget was still cut \$700,000 and we are awaiting the final budget sheets to be posted. In keeping with its policy of open government and transparency, OCS wishes to keep you informed as to the current status.

OCS continues to actively pursue all alternative sources of funding. However, tough economic times will make it difficult to replace all these lost funds. Depending on how successful OCS is in replacing these funds, program funding may have to be reduced across the board or vertically.

Service providers should not continue to rely so heavily on state funds. To help, OCS will be sending notices of grants and posting them on its website as they become available, and provide links that have information on other funding sources at www.hawaii.gov/labor/ocs/funding.

As some of you are aware, there was a subsequent earmark of \$400,000 for OCS in S.B. 2469. However, the bill will need Governor's approval. Furthermore, even if the bill is signed, the funds may not be released.

The State can better determine whether alternative monies are possible once final budget sheets are released. OCS will keep our service providers informed as more information becomes available.

FY10 has been a challenge for balancing the budget. OCS normally makes timely payments, but unfortunately there have been economic disruptions in our cash flow. OCS would like to take this opportunity to apologize to our service providers for any inconveniences this may have caused. On a positive note, OCS was notified and can assure now that all program funds through FY10 will be paid. However, when those payments can be made is still uncertain.

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OCS in Hawaii are seen as leaders of weatherization assistance for warm weather regions. The USDOE's and OCS' goals for this conference were to have the Hawaii providers share their weatherization expertise and methodology; to have the newer Pacific region providers share their challenges in ramping up new programs; and to provide standardized training. The PRWC training modules were designed to help maximize energy savings, minimize energy costs, improve program management, improve crew/contractor "quality of work", while reducing the potential for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.



Front row: Alex Gacula, Leonardo Sequeira, Jim Shiraki; back row: Donovan Hanohano, Keith Nakano, Leona Brun, Bishop Pahia, Moses Hobbs, Keith Yabusaki, Bob Dahilig

Conference topics ranged from Health and Safety Issues, Energy Auditing and Inspections of Homes, Solar Water and Heat Pump Systems, Air Conditioning Cooling Loads, Energy Related Incidental Repairs, Implementing Baseload Measures, and Client Education. The attendees also conducted two home audits to apply what they had learned.

Conference training was led by Thomas Brodbeck, (Universal Energy, Portland, OR) and Chris Baker (Southwest Building Science Training Center, Phoenix, AZ). Tom and Chris's commanding knowledge and wealth of experience was evident in their dynamic presentation as they fielded questions from the attentive but appreciative audience. They made difficult to understand subject matters easy to grasp and interesting. Everyone left the training session excited with new knowledge that would improve their own weatherization auditing/inspection efforts or program operations.

Special thanks to Ms. Carole Gates (USDOE Program Manager, Golden, CO); Kelly Cutchin (SMS, Washington D.C.); and Eileen Yoshinaka (Lockheed Martin Consultant, Honolulu, HI); who helped co-sponsor this successful conference.